ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A codeword is generated for transmission in a communications system by generating a first error detection code from information bits, and generating a second error detection code from the information bits and the first error detection code. The information bits, the first error detection code and the second error detection code are then concatenated. The codeword is received by using the first error detection code to make a first determination whether the information bits are error-free, and using the second error detection code to make a second determination whether the information bits and the first error detection code are error-free. The information bits are accepted only if the first determination indicates that the information bits are error-free and the second determination indicates that the information bits and the first error detection code are error-free. The technique is extendable to include additional error detection codes.